



CLARK COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

About the Veterans Assistance Fund.....	1
Veterans Resource Committee.....	2
Services Provided – CRMHS & HSC.....	3
Services Provided - VAC.....	7
Services Provided – Free Clinic.....	9
Services Provided - 2013 Veterans Stand Down.....	11
Funding and Demand for Services	14
Revenue and Expense Report.....	15
Looking Ahead	16
Contact Information.....	17

Veterans Assistance Fund

The Clark County Veterans Assistance Fund (VAF) provides assistance to indigent veterans and their families. The use of the fund was developed in accordance with Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 73.08 and Clark County Ordinance Chapter 2.29 Veterans Relief.

Washington State law established the Veterans Assistance Fund as a source of property tax dollars to be utilized for the needs of indigent veterans and their families. A portion of property tax collected in Clark County is earmarked for the VAF.

The use of the VAF is the responsibility of Clark County through the Department of Community Services with input from the Veterans Resource Committee. The Clark County Board of Commissioners has statutory oversight for the use and expenditures of the fund.

The County, based on recommendation from the Veterans Resource Committee, selects contract agencies through the County's procurement process once every three years. The County is responsible for all contracts, invoices, monitoring and reporting for these funds.

Direct emergency assistance was provided to veterans with this fund in 2012 and in January 2013 by Columbia River Mental Health, the contractor selected through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process in 2010. A new RFP was released in Fall 2012 and starting in February 2013, Human Services Council was selected to provide this assistance to eligible veterans.

Veterans must meet certain eligibility requirements to receive assistance through the Veterans Assistance Fund. Assistance is provided without discrimination and in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, rules, and ordinances.

In 2013, the Veterans Assistance Fund was used to provide the following emergency relief to qualified Veterans:

- Rent Assistance
- Heating and Utilities
- Food Assistance
- Transportation
- Prescription Coverage
- Burial Assistance
- Clothing, Tools and Licensing
- Auto Repair
- Dental Care
- Referral Services

Veterans Resource Committee

The establishment of a veterans advisory board is described in the RCW under 73.08.035. The law states that the board shall advise the county legislative authority on the needs of local indigent veterans, the resources available to local indigent veterans, and programs that could benefit the needs of local indigent veterans and their families.

The county legislative authority must solicit representatives from either local branches of nationally recognized veterans' service organizations or the veterans' community at large, or both, to serve on the board. No less than a majority of the board members shall be members from nationally recognized veterans' service organizations and only veterans are eligible to serve as board members.

The committee meets monthly on the second Wednesday of each month.

The Executive Committee for 2013 was comprised of Bob Nichols – Chair, Lou Baste – Vice-Chair. The Secretary position remained open in 2013. Executive members may be re-elected to their position for two consecutive years.

Appointed members of the Veterans Resource Committee in 2013 included:

POST

40 et 8
American Legion #14
American Legion #27
American Legion #44
American Legion #168
American Legion #176
American Legion #189
American Legion #208
American Vets #6
DAV Chapter #4
Korean War Vet Assoc #321
Marine Corps League #826
VFW #4278
VFW #7824
VFW #12028
Vietnam Vets #512

PRIMARY

Jerry Keen
Jerry Keesee
Elisa Cotton
Jim Moore
Robert Nichols
Michael Gibson
Dick DeWald
George Hunt
Richard Alvarez
Frank Hyatt
Thomas Dombeck
Lou Baste
John Russell
Roy Billings
Ray Saranto
Greg Whitson

SECONDARY

Emily Stoutsenberger
Dixie Hotaling
Wes Forgey
Darren Wertz
Richard Langenbach
Jonathan Fredrick
Don Taylor
Bob Blevins
Richard Gabriel
Michael Riley
Robert Sumril
Fiorin Zeviar
Gary Dowler
Bruce Maas
Skip Bengé
Odis Warren

Members at Large

Kevin Lawson

Emergency Assistance Provided

Columbia River Mental Health Services (CRMHS) only provided services in January 2013 as the contract was set up and the program transitioned to Human Service Council (HSC) for the remainder of the year. Human Service Council provided one and one half service officers to interview veterans, determine their level of need and assist them with emergency relief through the Veterans Assistance Fund. They provide a variety of emergency services to veterans that meet the eligibility requirements. To be eligible for service, a veteran must:

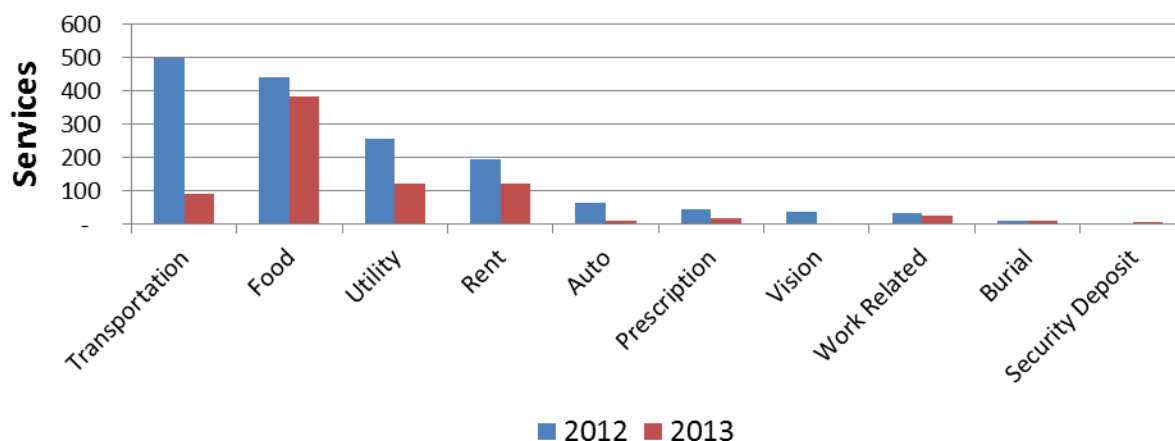
- have an honorable discharge status,
- have a household income not exceeding 150% of the annual federal poverty limit, and
- provide proof of current Clark County residency and proof of Washington State residency for the previous 12 consecutive months

A copy of the Policies and Procedures that govern the funding levels and services available along with the application for assistance is online at <http://www.clark.wa.gov/veterans/>

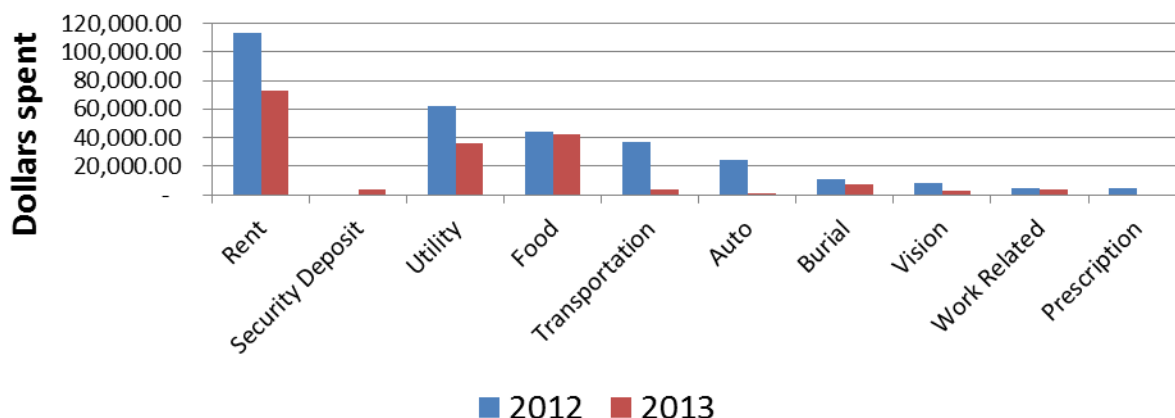
Services were provided Monday through Thursday at the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center and on Fridays on the first floor at the Center for Community Health. In 2013, \$246,517 from the Veterans Assistance Fund was used to provide emergency service. Of this, \$174,555.72 (70.8%) went directly to veterans.

Emergency Assistance Provided – continued

Comparison of Services Provided 2012 - 2013 (duplicated)



Comparison of Dollars Spent 2012 - 2013 (duplicated)



Please note: the transportation category dropped dramatically in both the “Services Provided” and “Dollars Spent” comparison because Human Service Council provided funding through their own transportation program that they used to assist veterans rather than expending the Veterans Assistance Fund for transportation assistance.

Emergency Assistance Provided - continued

January		
	Amount	# of Services
Rent	8,465.00	14
Utility	2,794.52	12
Food	8,202.87	78
Transportation	1,392.00	29
Prescription	210.02	2
Burial	1,135.00	1
Work Related	95.00	1
Auto	356.95	1
	22,651.36	138

February*		
	Amount	# of Services
Rent	236.67	1
Utility	0	0
Food	0	0
Transportation	292.00	7
Prescription	0	0
Burial	0	0
Work Related	0	0
Auto	0	0
	528.67	8

March		
	Amount	# of Services
Rent	4,231.60	6
Utility	790.70	4
Food	1,975.00	19
Transportation	609.00	11
Prescription	189.57	3
Burial	1,806.76	2
Work Related	330.95	3
Auto	385.00	1
	10,318.58	49

April		
	Amount	# of Services
Rent	10,887.00	18
Utility	437.50	3
Food	3,348.73	29
Transportation	127.00	5
Prescription	41.00	2
Burial	0	0
Work Related	200.00	1
Auto	417.25	1
	15,458.48	59

May		
	Amount	# of Services
Rent	3,798.84	6
Utility	1,159.26	7
Food	2,981.97	25
Transportation	207.00	5
Prescription	180.97	3
Burial	3,016.39	3
Work Related	81.00	1
Auto	318.70	1
	11,744.13	51

June		
	Amount	# of Services
Rent	5,619.33	9
Utility	4,278.99	15
Food	2,880.00	24
Transportation	58.00	1
Prescription	0	0
Burial	0	0
Work Related	360.36	4
Auto	235.00	1
	14,496.68	56

*Assistance levels fell in February as the services were relocated to the Assistance Center and the transition in service providers was underway.

Emergency Assistance Provided – continued

July		
	Amount	# of Services
Rent	9,516.76	18
Utility	6,382.33	16
Food	3,780.99	30
Transportation	4.00	1
Prescription	80.00	1
Burial	800.00	1
Work Related	288.35	3
Auto	0	0
	20,852.43	70

August		
	Amount	# of Services
Rent	\$5,704.34	10
Utility	\$5,578.12	18
Food	\$3,298.49	32
Transportation	\$95.00	3
Prescription	\$104.51	3
Burial	\$0.00	0
Work Related	\$200.00	1
Auto	\$265.00	1
	15,245.46	68

September		
	Amount	# of Services
Rent	6,631.52	11
Utility	4,007.38	13
Food	3,924.55	37
Transportation	209.55	12
Prescription	204.00	3
Burial	0	0
Work Related	0	0
Auto	500.00	2
	15,477.00	78

October		
	Amount	# of Services
Rent	8,635.50	12
Utility	4,821.88	14
Food	3,133.58	29
Transportation	236.00	4
Prescription	63.00	0
Burial	0	0
Work Related	757.07	5
Auto	800.27	2
	18,447.30	66

November		
	Amount	# of Services
Rent	7,257.50	11
Utility	4,390.41	15
Food	4,375.04	37
Transportation	238.00	5
Prescription	0	0
Burial	0	0
Work Related	0	4
Auto	355.11	0
	16,616.06	72

December		
	Amount	# of Services
Rent	5,363.00	9
Utility	1,554.00	6
Food	4,030.00	41
Transportation	366.00	9
Prescription	200.00	1
Burial	800.00	1
Work Related	406.57	3
Auto	0	0
	12,719.57	70

Services Provided – CCVAC

Since the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center (CCVAC) opened in May 2011 they have served hundreds of veterans in our community. The Center is open from 9 AM to 4 PM, five days a week and is staffed entirely by volunteers. The Veterans Assistance Fund pays rent for the Center on Columbia Street through a Memorandum of Understand with the Department of Community Services. The Memorandum provided the Center with a total of \$24,900 in 2013.

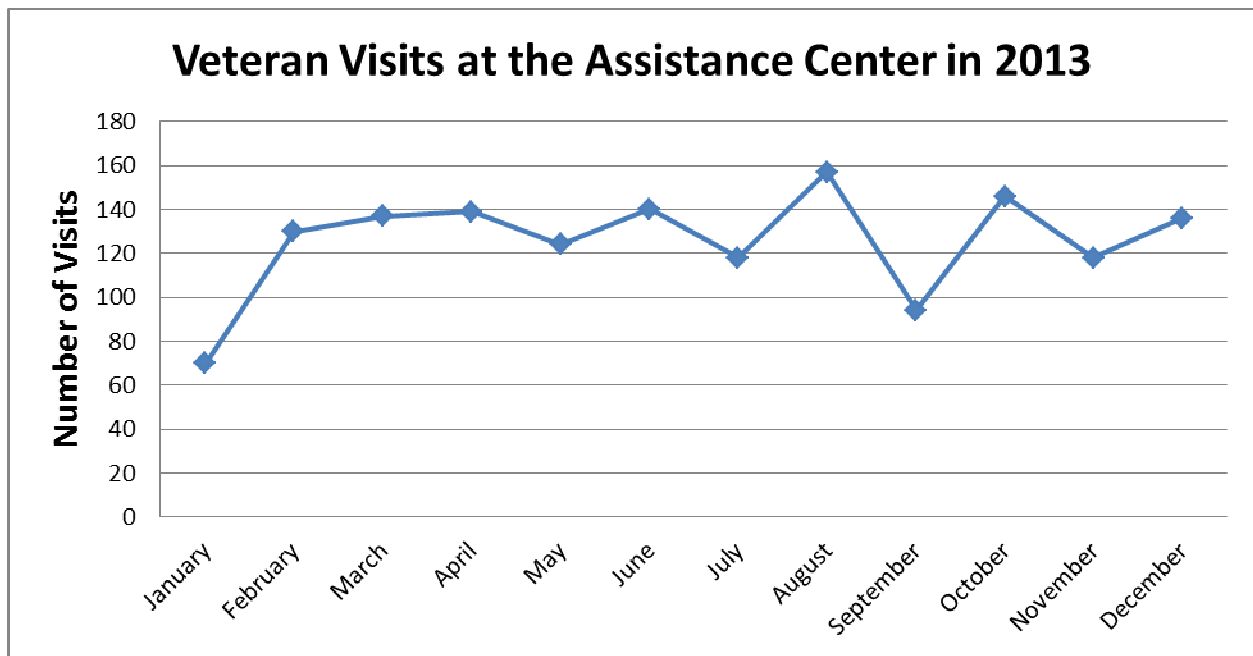
Volunteers help veterans transitioning back into the community with employment, physical and mental health issues, homelessness, family issues, Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits and other referrals. Service Officers from DAV Chapter 4 volunteer to assist veterans in completing required forms for filing claims through the federal VA. The Veterans Assistance Center is also responsible for coordinating the annual Veterans Stand Down (see page 11).

Veterans Assistance Center Volunteer Hours 2013

	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer Value
January	693	\$ 15,716.23
February	675	\$ 15,304.41
March	763	\$ 17,309.07
April	665	\$ 15,088.85
May	675	\$ 15,310.08
June	841	\$ 19,082.29
July	Not submitted	N/A
August	692	\$ 15,701.48
September	607	\$ 13,772.83
October	569	\$ 12,910.61
November	615	\$ 13,952.08
December	614	\$ 13,925.99
Total	7,407	\$ 168,073.91

*Based on the independent sector value of volunteer labor for Washington State, \$22.69/hour.

Services Provided – CCVAC – continued



Services Provided – Free Clinic Dental

Clark County contracts with the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington to provide two seven-hour clinics per month for low-income veterans. Veterans receive urgent dental care only, as recommended by the Clinic, and cannot be provided specialty care and/or cosmetic dental procedures. Patients are referred through the HSC and must meet the eligibility requirements for the Veterans Assistance Fund. The Clinic has the capacity to provide care for up to 12 patients per clinic (24 patients/month).

Four dentists volunteer four hours per month, four dental assistants volunteer four hours per month, and two clerks volunteer eight hours per month. If the Clinic is unsuccessful in recruiting volunteer dentists, a contract dentist is hired to provide services.

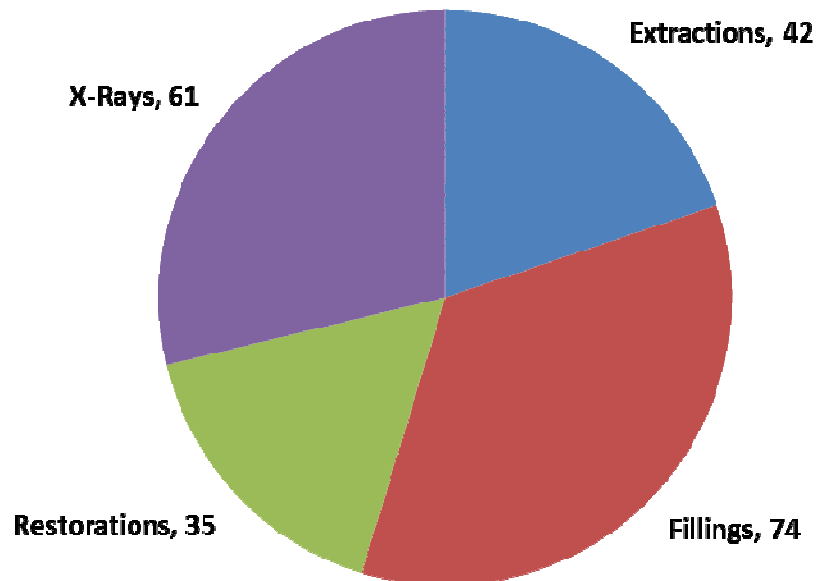
	Veterans Served	Services Provided	Value of Services	Actual Billed to VAF
January	4	7	\$1,332.00	\$1,169.04
February	7	15	\$3,274.00	\$1,122.36
March	6	15	\$1,946.00	\$1,321.21
April	7	15	\$1,929.00	\$1,632.54
May	6	16	\$1,807.00	\$1,113.58
June	2	4	\$418.00	\$1,436.84
July	3	13	\$1,098.00	\$911.00
August	15	55	\$5,039.00	\$1,170.00
September	6	30	\$2,040.00	\$1,067.76
October	4	9	\$1,132.00	\$1,555.64
November	5	15	\$1,358.00	\$1,420.94
December	6	18	\$1,885.00	\$1,454.26
TOTAL	71	212	23,258.00	15,375.17

The Veterans Assistance Fund paid 66% percent compared to the Value of Services.

Each veteran received an average of three dental services. These include exams, x-rays, fillings, restorations and extractions as needed. During the month of August, the dental services were provided at the Veterans Stand Down at the Armed Forces Reserve Center.

Services Provided - Free Clinic Dental - continued

2013 Dental Services



Services Provided – Annual Veterans Stand Down

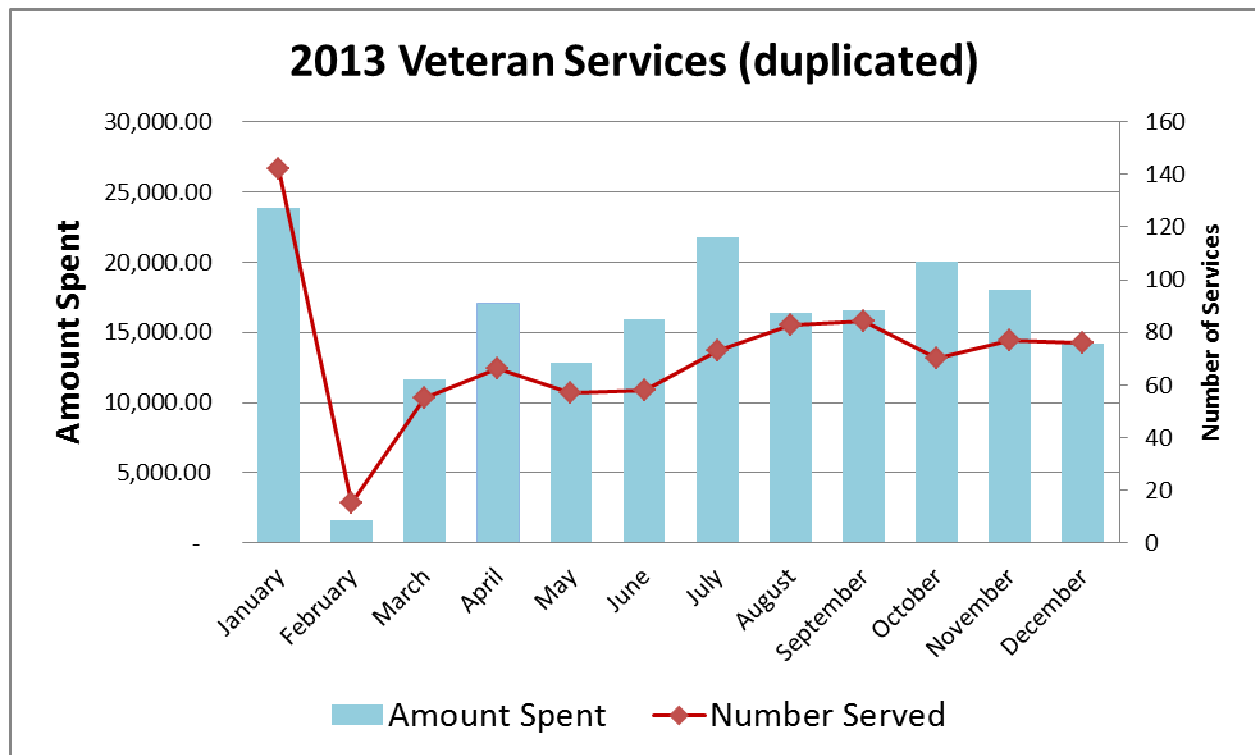
The annual Stand Down event was held on August 14, 2013 at the Armed Forces Reserve Center. Immediate assistance included hot meals, showers, haircuts, clothes and hygiene items, health and dental screenings. This year, the Veterans Assistance Fund supported the Stand Down with a total of \$4,570.42. Clothes, backpacks, boots and other necessities for veterans were distributed throughout the year and at the Stand Down.

The stand down saw a total of 119 veterans, who were helped by 54 volunteers and 34 service providers.



Funding and Demand for Services - continued

As previously noted, assistance levels fell in February as the services were relocated to the Assistance Center and the transition in service providers was underway. After reducing services to veterans in September 2012, the Veterans Resource Committee further decreased assistance availability in June 2013. The Committee recommended a twice in a lifetime limit on rental, utility, work-related and auto repair assistance. However, at the same time assistance was expanded to allow veterans with a general discharge under honorable conditions to receive assistance, in line with changed state law. In addition, changes to the policies allowed certain types of income to be excluded from the eligibility calculations, such as educational assistance and pay received in a combat zone.



Revenue and Expense Report

Veteran's Assistance Fund – Fund 1019

	<u>Total</u>
Fund Balance as of January 1, 2013	\$401,698.91
Revenue:	
Tax Revenues	359,059.11
Miscellaneous Revenue	14.60
Interest and F M Adjustment	5,002.26
Total Revenue	\$364,075.97
Expense:	
Salaries:	
Program Staff	18,575.93
Finance	4,194.21
Contracts	2,665.28
Operating Expenses	16,713.25*
Contracted Services:	
Human Service Council	246,517.00
SW Washington Free Clinic Dental	15,375.17
Veterans Assistance Center	24,900.00
Veterans Stand Down	4,570.42
Total Expenses	\$333,511.26
Adjustment (CRMHS advance repayment)	9,665.00
Fund Balance as of December 31, 2013	\$441,928.62

*Operating expenses include: Supplies, travel and indirect expenses for VAF programs.

Looking Ahead – 2014

An RFP for administration of the Veterans Assistance was released in 2012 and the Human Services Council was awarded a one-year contract, with an option to renew for a maximum of three years. The Human Services Council provided services at both the Center for Community Health (8 hours per week) and at the Veterans Assistance Center. In 2014, the Human Service Council extended their contract through the end of June and will be providing services only at the Center for Community Health. It is expected that the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center will be able to take over the contract beginning in July 2014 and veterans will be served by the fund out of their offices on Columbia Street.

The Veterans Resource Committee is considering changing the income eligibility for veterans seeking assistance from the fund in 2014. Currently, the Service Officer must document that a veteran household does not earn more than one-hundred fifty percent (150%) of the current federally established poverty level. The VRC is looking at different definitions of indigence allowed under Washington state law (RCW 73.08.005).

Contact Information

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Vancouver, WA 98665
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colleenk@hsc-wa.org
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Veterans Resource Committee 2014 Chair

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